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# The New Northwest

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## THE WEST SIDE.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN DALLAS AND THE "CROOKED" BUSINESS IN THE POST OFFICE OF THE LATTER PLACE.

WORK FOR POSTAL AGENT SIMPSON—A TEMPTING TRAP—MAN VERDICT MONKEY—MAY BEAT—ING—MAY BEAT—AT AMTIC.

DEAR READERS OF THE NEW NORTHWEST:

In all this beautiful country there can be found no spot more charming than the sequestered foothills under whose lee the town of Dallas nestles. The town itself is situated upon a level plain; the rolling landscape adjacent, backed by billowy, tree-dotted hills, presents a view of Arcadian loveliness that, in the budding Springtime especially, baffles the art of pen-picturing, and would gladden the eye of a painter. The town has improved rapidly since our last visit, nearly three years ago. The iron horse now canters daily through the labyrinthine mazes of a crooked railway track, and the old stage-coach no longer awakes the sleeping villagers with its weekly visits as of oldtime. Enterprise smiles at you from every quarter, and prosperity is making its mark upon all things, whether animals or otherwise.

Our old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Parsons, of Singer sewing machine fame, formerly of Portland, are here, engaged in the hotel business, and making money, if we can judge by the richness of custom they have. Then, too, a great many supported women in Dallas keep boarders, thereby increasing their husbands' income, and contributing much to the comfort of the supporting sex.

We had only time to note these evidences of prosperity on Friday, after which a good sleep so far refreshed us that we made preparations for a course of lectures, which began on Saturday evening before a crowded house, and continued till Tuesday night, not omitting Sunday, when the largest audience of the four gave heed to "Woman and the Bible." The woman movement was the theme of conversation in all circles during the week. It was received with great favor among the thinking classes, though it was of course loudly objected to by the most ignorant and dissipated voters. But, to offset the objections of these, the able support of the best, wisest and most prominent men in the community, and the aid of all the better class of women.

The Polk County Woman Suffrage Association was organized on Tuesday, the 22d inst., in the Court House, and was made auxiliary to the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association. Following is the list of officers: President, Mr. M. M. Ellis; Vice-President, Miss Fanny Green; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. J. L. Collins; Recording Secretary, Miss Jennie Brown; Treasurer, Mr. B. W. Beall.

In the evening an enthusiastic identification meeting was held, from which many new recruits were secured. The following year were appointed at this meeting: On Resolutions—Judge J. L. Collins, Mr. McMinin Dodson, C. A. Jones, Esq. On Programme—Miss Joanna Lyle, Miss Nellie Collins, Mr. A. Brown, Miss Hattie Howell, Mr. R. M. Sizer, Miss N. Riley, Mr. Chas. Sullivan. Executive Committee—Mr. R. N. Butler, Mr. George Good, Miss Jenny Logan, Miss May Ellis, Mrs. Beatrice Grant.

After an address of an hour by the undersigned, short, sharp and interesting speeches were made by Messrs. Collins, Lyle and Ellis. Considerable excitement was had at the expense of Hon. J. D. Lee, State Senator from Polk, who had spoken and voted in the Senate against the suffrage amendment, giving as his reason therefor that it was woman's right to be supported and protected in the home; that man should be the husband and father and woman the wife and mother—the inference of course being that the ballot in woman's hands would, in his opinion, change these relations by shifting maternity upon man. But Mr. Lee stood his ground bravely, and made a good-natured response, saying he was perfectly willing to change an opinion whenever his positions were proven untenable. He attended the lectures three times and gave earnest heed to the arguments, thereby proving himself an unbiased investigator. We have little doubt that, like many worthy ladies, who were once opposed to woman suffrage, he will soon array his influence, which is by no means inconsiderable, upon the woman's side.

Mr. Lee, the President of the new Suffrage Association, is the County Clerk of Polk, and an able and popular man. Mr. Collins, the Corresponding Secretary, is a prominent lawyer of Dallas, and a Republican in politics. Judge J. J. Lyle, also a prominent lawyer, is a Democrat. Mr. Dodson is a sturdy farmer and a Greenbacker. Mr. Jones is a lawyer and a Republican. Mr. N. Butler is a Democrat with Greenback sympathies. Mr. Ellis is a Republican. Thus, as it

will be seen, the Woman Suffrage Association of Polk county is not confined to one, nor to men or women at all, but is the outgrowth of a principle that is broader and grander than sectionalism of any sort.

Our work was not half over in Dallas, but our time was up. We had promised to return to Independence on Wednesday, and were up and off betimes, bound for Derry Station, where we were compelled to wait in solitude for six mortal hours for the south-bound train. The waiting was over at last, and at three o'clock we were at our place of destination, and comfortably ensconced in the Belt House, a new hotel that would do honor to any town in the State.

We had not been long at the hotel before we were called upon by two gentlemen, one of whom informed us that the story was going the rounds that we had forwarded a roll of papers for new subscribers to a certain prominent lady of the place for distribution, and that her husband, indignant at what he deemed a insult, had resented the impudence by returning them to the New Northwest office by express, marked "C. O. D., value \$53.00." We laughed at the report, and assured the gentlemen that it must be wholly without foundation, as we had sent no such instructions to the home office nor anywhere else. We also made the same statement at the lecture in the evening. But we were surprised to find in the morning that part of the report was true, for the postmaster had delivered the package of papers to the husband of one of our lady subscribers, instead of distributing them himself, as he was bound by law to do; and the said husband, upon whom the wise postmaster had attempted to pass either a joke or an insult, had returned the package as above stated. We then called upon the postmaster, who said the papers came to the office addressed to the lady in question, and that he had delivered them to her husband because he had no authority to do otherwise; whereupon we addressed to the home office, in his presence, the following, on a postal card: "How came you to address the package of papers to Mrs. —? The postmaster says you did it. If of course made Mr. — angry. Explain mistake if you made it, and if not, shut it out." The postmaster mailed this after reading it, and the card is in our possession.

Still wondering, and half doubting the postmaster's story, we repaired to the store of one Mr. Poppleton, where the husband, who had returned the package, is employed. We found him (the clerk, Mr. Hodgins) not because we had solicited her subscription to the NEW NORTHWEST, after all, it was his duty to do so; but because he didn't feel able to do it. This then, was the head and front of our offending! We leave our intelligent readers to judge of that head and front, and right to be offended. When the lady who returned the paper we didn't know her name, such from Adams, and wouldn't now if he hadn't allowed the postmaster and Poppleton to make a fuss upon an imaginary provocation. He has yet to learn that if his wife wants a dinner she is not compelled to do without it, if he doesn't desire to eat too. We assured him that we could not imagine how it was possible that the papers had been entrusted to his wife for distribution; but, if the fault were with our office, an apology was due to her, and if the error were with himself, he could judge as to what was due to us. We questioned closely about the wrapper, and, having been returned from Portland, again by the same But it was not found. He said it was white paper. We insisted that our wrappers were invariably of manilla paper, when he appealed to the foreman Poppleton, who corroborated our statement. Then the Poppleton made it his business to volunteer the following "advice":

"Mrs. D. always with a very good 'advice' you to keep still about this matter. There's been too much said about it lately for your own good. This community looks on this matter this way: You can't here and there this man to subscribe for woman's rights paper, and then he comes and says the woman's side."

"Equal rights," he ventured to explain. "A woman's rights paper," continued the proprietor. "And when he said he didn't feel able to take it, he went and got his wife to subscribe, and then, to show your photo over him, you sent her the whole package! Now, my advice! and keep still about this matter, for that's the way his community looks at it."

Still hoping the fellow had a modicum of common honesty, in spite of his exhibition of tyranny, we explained that we were merely hunting the origin of a mistake, and seeking an opportunity to amend it, that we hadn't given this man, who had added poverty, was the husband of the lady who had subscribed, and if we had known we shouldn't have come and said it was right to deny her the right of judgment concerning her own affairs.

Then Poppleton repeated for the fifth time:

"Take my advice, and keep still about the matter! for it looks as if you are not even, and the less you say about it the better for you."

"Mr. Poppleton, I didn't ask you for advice," we said, mildly.

Whereupon this gallant protector of women, who thinks our sex ought to be content to let masculinity to do our thinking, ordered us out of his store!

We obeyed with silent dignity, and beg our thousands of friends, who will read with honest indignation, to restrain their wrath. A man will not try to insult us, and a monkey cannot succeed in the attempt.

This affair should cost the master Hodgins his place; but, if it will teach him the duties of a postmaster, his term will not have been wholly devoid of benefit to himself. And the community of which Ezra Poppleton said so much may yet see the day when the man who mortgages his wife's land to get money to run a store will be glad to borrow funds to save him from bankruptcy, from the clerk whose wife teaches school for the money to pay for her New Northwest. The said clerk is a gentleman by instinct, which we are sorry we cannot say for his employer. That he (the clerk) got angry and did a foolish thing we can excuse, because of the company he was in. He will not be guilty of such a ridiculous assumption of "man's rights" a second time, for he has the good sense to be ashamed of his act. But enough of this. We are sorry we have been compelled to give so much space to so small a tempest, but the matter was forced upon us; and then, we had no idea of taking the Poppleton's "advice."

For further explanations in regard to this "tempest in a tea-pot," we refer our readers to the junior proprietors of the NEW NORTHWEST, who are amply able to set it right, so far as they are concerned.

On Thursday afternoon, the friends of equal rights, to the number of thirty or more, assembled at the Belt House parlors, as per previous appointment, and organized the Woman Suffrage Club of Independence with the following officers: President, Dr. J. M. Roberts; Vice-President, Mrs. L. L. Whiteaker; Recording Secretary, Miss J. M. Allen; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Eli Young; Treasurer, Mrs. J. Deuninger. The several committees were next appointed by the chair, as follows: On Resolutions—Mr. G. W. Quiver, Mr. E. A. Tharp, Mr. S. W. Smith. On Programme—Mr. C. E. Magers, Miss Anna Vaughn, Mrs. M. L. Piper, Mr. J. S. Sweet, Mrs. S. E. Gray, Mrs. Sarah Young, Mr. G. Miller. Executive Committee—Mr. Henry Hill, Mr. R. R. Parrish, Mrs. E. M. Smith, Mr. J. P. Irvine, Mrs. A. Cooper. Honorary Committee on Hall—Mr. E. A. Tharp. As an Corvallis, Dallas and everywhere else, the very best citizens are committed to the movement and ready to aid in advancing its interests.

Our work was ended for the present at Independence, and we took Friday's train for Amity, where we arrived after an hour's ride, and were met at the station by Mrs. Goucher (nee Sherman) and her husband, Dr. Goucher, senior, who escorted us to their pleasant home and made arrangements for a lecture at the school-house in the evening which was largely attended and well received. We had formed the acquaintance of Dr. Goucher, junior, during his attendance at the medical school in Salem, and though he has not yet graduated, he is well up in medical books and has an extensive local practice as his father's assistant. This information is cheerfully given for the benefit of the Yamhill county public, who have lately read a statement to the contrary in the *Telegram* of this city, which journal has been misled by some gossiping informant. Readers of the *Telegram* will remember an article published in that journal a short time since to the effect that "two physicians of Amity" had failed to understand and relieve a case of dislocation of the jaw, and had called it "a fracture." There being but two regular physicians of Amity, these doctors demanded a retraction in the paper, and of course got the word of it. Yet the truth is that they were not consulted in the case at all, as has been certified by affidavit. Dr. Goucher, senior, claiming that he has been for a year past the victim of another who spread story which has done him great injury, and which is probably true, as alluded to in the *Telegram* in its proposition to "give the facts soon." The doctor says a peripatetic dentist drew a lady's tooth and dislocated her jaw, and he was sent for to attend her; but he was absent at Wheatland on professional business, and another doctor was called, who, by telling part of the truth among the people, succeeded in making it appear that he (Dr. Goucher) did not understand his business, when in fact he did not see the patient at all. He is indebted to the *Telegram* for inadvertently bringing out the facts in the case; for, but for the story it printed he would not yet know that he had been thus accused. This is an

unpaid, unsolicited statement of facts as we have learned them from a number of Amity's leading citizens, and are given here in simple justice to worthy and conscientious men.

Our stay in Amity was short, but we were too near home to remain away over the Sabbath, and here we are at our own hearthstone, busily engaged in planning for the next campaign.

Portland, March 28, 1881.

## LETTER FROM WASHINGTON CITY.

(REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE OF THE NEW NORTHWEST.)

WASHINGTON, March 24, 1881.

The new administration is fairly started upon its career, having been ushered in with more parade, enthusiasm and good feeling than any administration for years. The Cabinet, of which opinions have been already freely expressed, is generally regarded as politic and by no means weak in its composition. Much has been written in the daily press about the dissatisfaction of Senators Conkling and Cameron, but this, as nearly as I can ascertain, is mostly sensational. A careful analysis of the Cabinet does not reveal a preponderance of any of the elements that are said to be more or less antagonistic. In fact, it appears from a disinterested standpoint, that the President has wisely balanced the different interests that all the factions must be satisfied of his necessity to deal fairly with them, while holding them in a position to play them off against each other, and provide for his own re-nomination in 1884. The Cabinet is thus the work of an experienced and subtle politician, and is well received by the country. Now these various elements will work together, is another question. The friction, as yet, does not come so much over these appointments, as over those which must be made later on. Our chief alone stands out prominently in the break-up of the administration, and that is, that President Grant's star of empire takes its last gleam.

As the very outset the President and his advisers are called upon to grapple with important questions. The situation between the Treasury Department and the national banks, growing out of the action of the latter pending consideration of the funding bill in Congress, is a matter that has occupied the serious attention of the Cabinet. The bulldozing tactics of the banks in surrendering legal tenders and withdrawing their circulation worked well enough while Congress was in the way, but now that they want to take it all back, there is some doubt whether it is just the thing to let them do so.

Several well-known faces are missed from the Senate chamber since Mr. Thurman's departure. Some of the ablest and most respected members of that body. This is especially true of the Democratic side. The fortunes of war have taken the best Chief among Democrats, Senator Thurman. Friends and foes agree that the country has produced a larger or better man than he. He is a great lawyer, and has been an honest, useful legislator—always a consistent Democrat. He spoke the truth, he uttered what he believed, and he was brought up to a school that really believed what it said. However people may differ as to the soundness of Mr. Thurman's political views, it must be admitted that he has always been an honest man, and that he has always been an honest man in his legislation, especially those involving the relations of the Government with great corporations, have been of inestimable value. However prudent and worthy his successor may be, the country parts with regret with Senator Thurman—a strong, vigorous, honest, kindly man, whose weakness, if any, like the weakness of other great men, was his ambition for the Presidency. He is now an old man, and not likely to return to any very active post in public life. Senator Eaton is another who will be missed. There is a good deal of affection felt for this rough old diamond. Honest men love an honest opponent and a hard fighter, who stands up squarely and manfully and never resorts to artifice or treachery. Eaton is such a man, and the strong men on the Republican side like him. Like Thurman, he has always been on the honest side of legislation. Mr. Donald is also missed by both parties, but he is young enough to come back some day, perhaps. Wallace is another of the leaders whose loss will be a serious one to his party. Kernan, too, makes a bad break in the ranks, and his face has probably been seen for the last time in public position. The Republican loss has been among the minor lights, whose places have been filled mostly by better men, and in this last turn of the wheel the advantages have largely fallen on that side of the chamber.

Don Pedro, Buchanan, the bogus medical diploma dealer of Philadelphia, has made a confession. Among other things, he tells of twenty-five colleges which vend bogus "sheepskins," and says there are 20,000 of the frauds in America and 40,000 in Europe.